

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

August 15, 2002

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 26, and 31 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides and at least
one side wall depending from said deck;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
10 a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which is
mounted to said deck and extends at an angle in relation
to two of said at least three sides of said deck, and
a flap depending from said guard and
15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

7. (Twice Amended) The mower head of claim 1
wherein said actuating member is mounted on said deck at
a location spaced from said hinge.

9. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,
a hinge extending between two of said at

10 least three sides of said deck at an angle with respect to
said two of said at least three sides,

a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

15 a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

18. (Thrice Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

5 three side walls, one depending from each
of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said
three side walls are rigid;

10 at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

15 a hinge extending at an angle in relation
to two adjacent ones of said at least four sides of
said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

20 a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

26. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck;
a guard pivotally attached to said deck at
10 an obtuse angle, via a hinge, in relation to sides of said
deck which are adjacent opposed ends of said guard, said
guard including a first wall which comprises an
approximately straight edge and a second wall which
comprises a plurality of angled sections, and

15 a flap which depends from said guard and is
oriented in a plane spaced apart from the plane of said
guard.

31. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade;

a guard assembly comprising:
a hinge extending at an angle between two
of said at least three sides of said deck,
10 a guard pivotally attached to said deck via
said hinge;
a holding member for holding said guard in
one rotational position in relation to said deck; and
a flap extending from said guard and
15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.